

# Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season Has Arrived

Congresswoman Kosmas' Hurricane Checklist

Congressional District 24 Contact Information

Hurricane Season Has Arrived

June 1st marks the beginning of Florida's annual hurricane season, which lasts through November. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has projected that the Atlantic hurricane season will be near-normal this year, with a high likelihood of nine to 14 named storms. As with any season, the need to prepare for the possibility of a storm striking near you is essential.

Taking early precautions, as well as having an evacuation plan, is of paramount importance to minimize damage and to maintain family stability and coordination during hurricane season. Each household and business should devise a plan of action detailing where to go if there is a hurricane, especially for those who are in need of special assistance. These plans should not be postponed until danger is imminent.

Naturally, we are hoping that this season passes without a hurricane, but it is my hope that you will all take the actions necessary for your safety.

See below for an EMERGENCY CHECKLIST that you can use to prepare and protect your family, as well as EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS for Central Florida. Please be aware of evacuation routes for Orange, Volusia, Seminole, and Brevard Counties.

Please also see additional resources for seniors, for those with pets, flood preparedness, for those with special needs, and in the case of a chemical emergency.

Please make sure to print the information vital to you and forward on to your friends and family. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call my district offices at 1-877-9-KOSMAS (1-877-956-7627).

The Florida Emergency Information Line (FEIL) is a toll-free hotline activated by the Department of Community Affairs / Division of Emergency Management at the time of an emergency to provide an additional resource for those in Florida to receive accurate and up-to-date information regarding an emergency or disaster situation impacting the State of Florida. The FEIL hotline is: 1-800-342-3557.

Additionally, anyone with special needs living in an evacuation zone, especially those without transportation, should call 2-1-1 immediately to register with local officials. This will help to ensure adequate space on buses and in shelters in the case of an evacuation. Please do not wait until there is a storm to register. Call 211 today!

Together we can keep our communities safe no matter what the winds may bring.

### Congresswoman Kosmas' Hurricane Checklist

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

#### SECURE YOUR PROPERTY:

- Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.
- (Tape does not prevent windows from breaking!)
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat or RV.
- Consider building a "safe room."
- Make sure you have copies of insurance papers and other important documents in weather-proof containers.

#### IF A HURRICANE IN YOUR AREA IS IMMINENT:

- Listen to the radio or TV for information
- Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

#### EVACUATE ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well secured.
- If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.
- Be sure to stick to your designated evacuation routes!
- Bring your important documents including insurance papers, birth certificates, etc.

#### IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EVACUATE:

- Go to your safe room.
- If you do not have one, take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors—secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Do not be fooled if there is a lull!
- (It could be the eye of the storm and winds will pick up again)

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT:

- Keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own, or shelter in place, for at least three days.
- Keep these materials in an easily accessible, separate container or special cupboard.
- Include:
  - One gallon of drinking water per person per day
  - Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
  - A first aid kit
  - A flashlight
  - A battery-operated AM/FM radio, NOAA All-hazards radio, and extra batteries
  - A whistle

-Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)

-Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.

-A phone that does not rely on electricity.

-Child care supplies or other special care items

#### Congressional District 24 Emergency Contact Information:

Gather personal contact information for your doctors, insurance agents, family and friends and keep with other important documents in weather-proof containers.

#### Florida Division of Emergency Management

Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

#### Brevard County

<http://embrevard.com/>

American Red Cross - (321) 890-1002

Animal Services - (321) 633-2024

Emergency Management Office - (321) 637-6670

Special Needs Shelter Information - (321) 637-6670

Citizens Hotline: (321) 637-4070

#### Orange County

<http://www.ocoem.com>

American Red Cross - (407) 894-4141

Animal Services - (407) 254-9140

Office of Emergency Management - (407) 836-9140

Emergency Shelters - (407) 836 - 9140

Helpline - (407) 836-3111

## Seminole County

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/dps/em>

American Red Cross - (407) 894-4141

Animal Services - (407) 665-5110

Emergency Management - (407) 665 - 5102

Hurricane Warnings - (407) 665-8000

Emergency Shelters - (407) 665 - 5102

Information Line: (407) 665-7219

## Volusia County

<http://www.volusia.org/emergency>

American Red Cross - (386) 226-1400

Animal Services: (386) 248-1790

Emergency Management - (386) 254-1500

Citizens Information Center: (866) 345-0345

Emergency Shelter Information: (866) 345 -0345

For help in disaster recovery, please visit: [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)